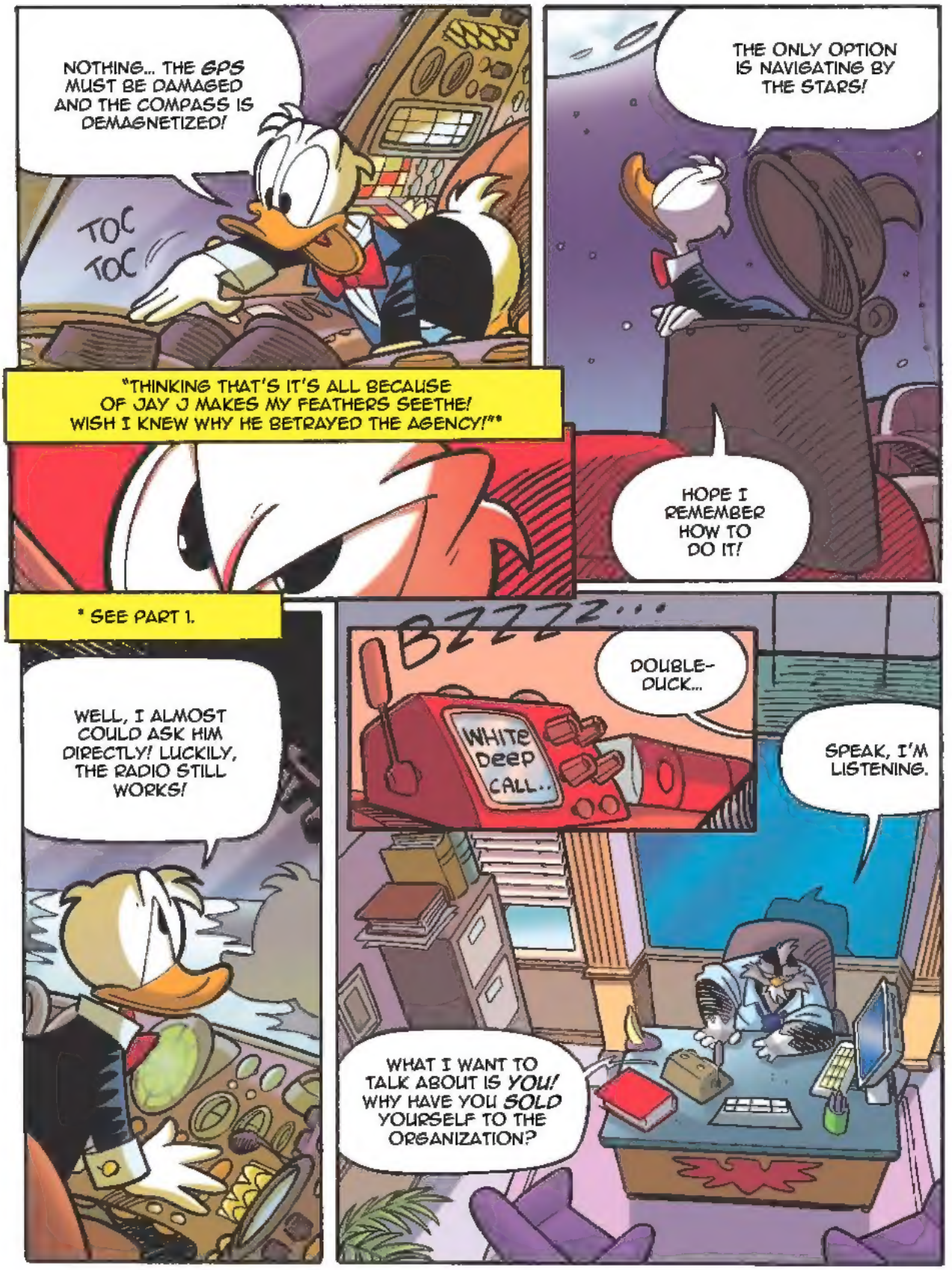
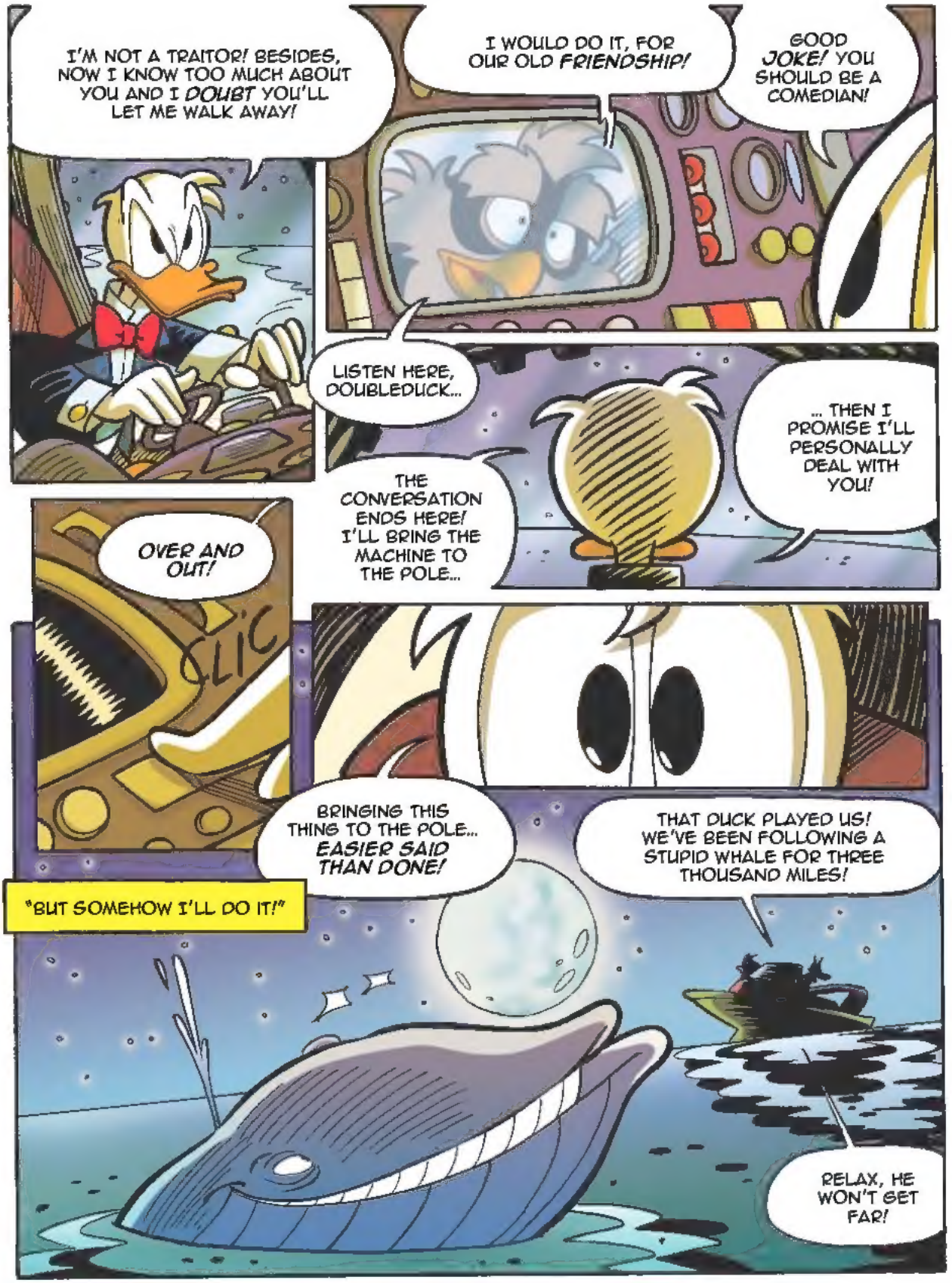
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN A DUCK FINDS HIMSELF ALONE AND FEELS ADRIFT...
DOUBLEDUCK
MISSIONE
Cuore termico
EPISODIO #2
NOT EXACTLY! I DON'T FEEL AT ALL ADRIFT...
I AM ADRIFT!
AND I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHERE THE MAINLAND IS, NOW WHICH WAY TO GO!

Testo di **Fausto Vitaliano** - Disegni di **Marco Mazzarello**
Supervisione colore **Max Monteduro**

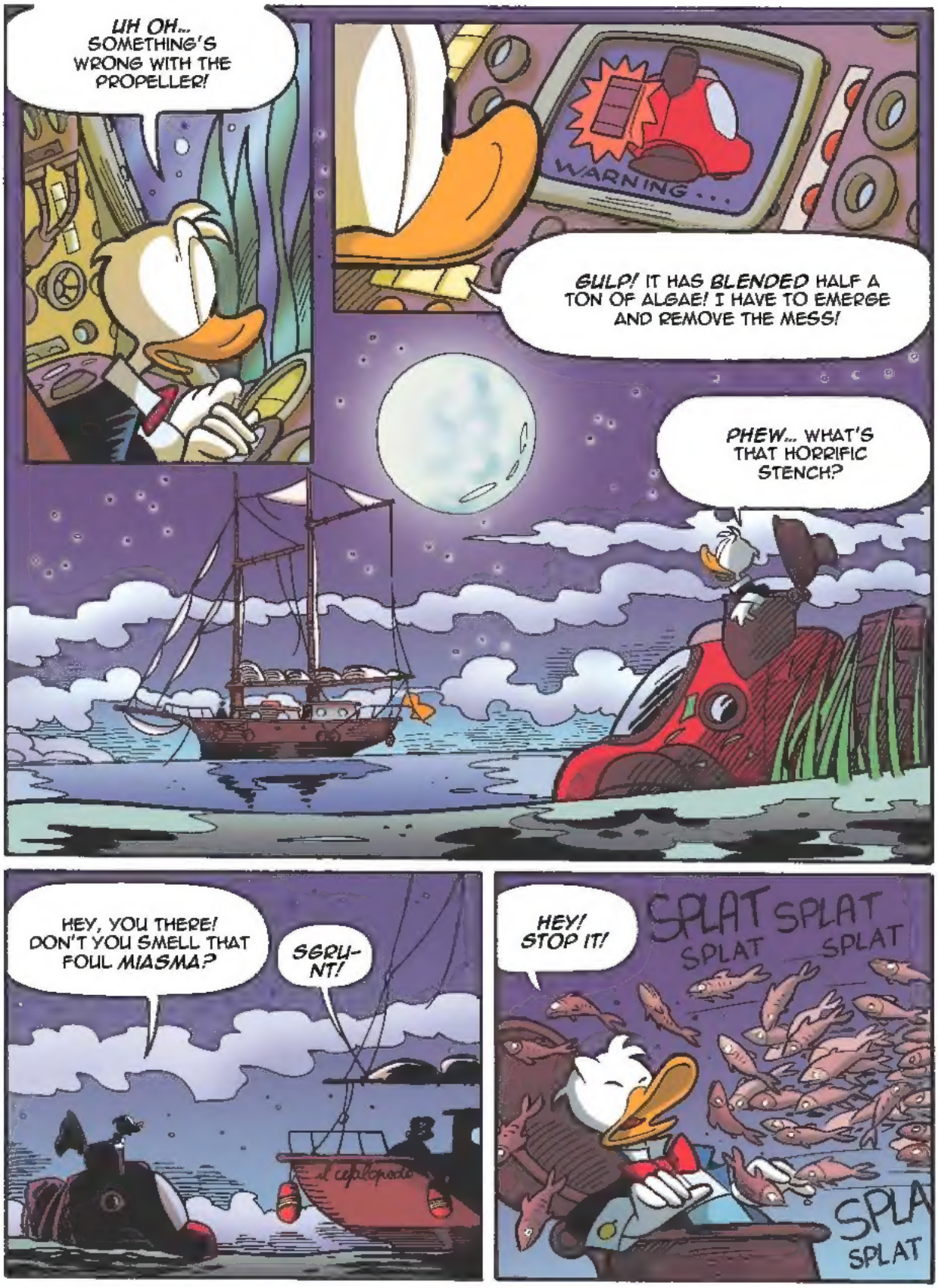

NOTHING... THE GPS MUST BE DAMAGED AND THE COMPASS IS DEMAGNETIZED!
TOC TOC
THE ONLY OPTION IS NAVIGATING BY THE STARS!
HOPE I REMEMBER HOW TO DO IT!
"THINKING THAT'S IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF JAY J MAKES MY FEATHERS SEETHE! WISH I KNEW WHY HE BETRAYED THE AGENCY!"*
* SEE PART 1.
WELL, I ALMOST COULD ASK HIM DIRECTLY! LUCKILY, THE RADIO STILL WORKS!
BZZZZ...
WHITE DEEP CALL..
DOUBLE-DUCK...
SPEAK, I'M LISTENING.
WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS YOU! WHY HAVE YOU SOLD YOURSELF TO THE ORGANIZATION?

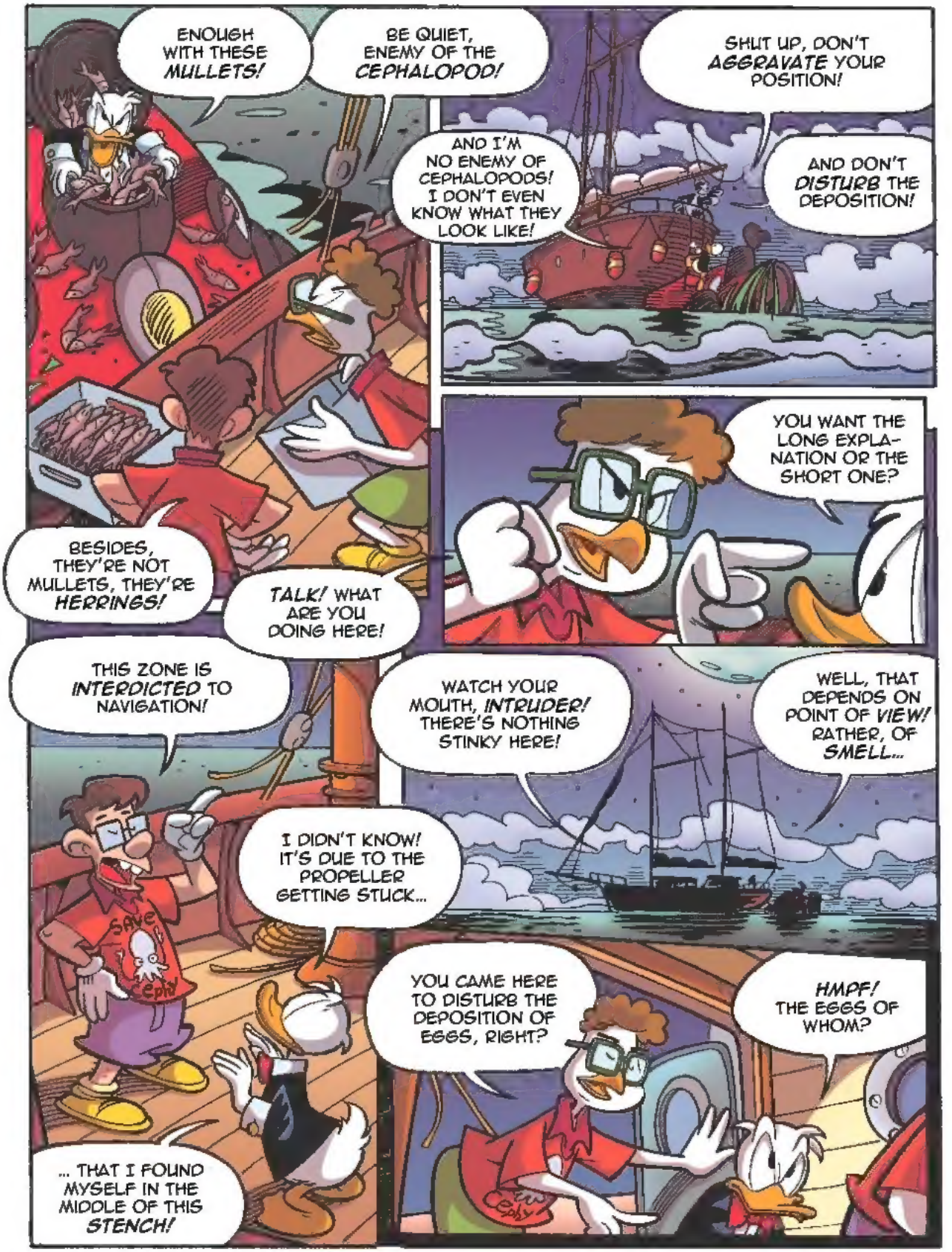
DON'T TELL ME YOU DID IT FOR MONEY! IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN FOR SUCH A SQUALID REASON!
AND IT WAS IN FACT NOT FOR MONEY! NOT EXACTLY...
I AM RETIRING, DD! THIS WILL BE MY *LAST* MISSION!
AND?
WELL, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT THE ORGANIZATION'S *RETIREMENT PLAN* IS MUCH BETTER THAN THAT OF THE AGENCY!
EEEH?!
YOU BETRAYED US FOR A... BETTER RETIREMENT?
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER! BY NOW, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!
LISTEN TO ME, DD: GIVE ME YOUR POSITION AND HAND OVER WHITE DEEP TO THE ORGANIZATION!
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
THAT'S NOT HAPPENING!
COME ON! NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO YOU! THEY'RE INTERESTED IN THE BATHYSCAPHE, AND THE SAME DOESN'T GO FOR YOU!
NO CAN DO!


I'M NOT A TRAITOR! BESIDES, NOW I KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT YOU AND I DOUBT YOU'LL LET ME WALK AWAY!
I WOULD DO IT, FOR OUR OLD FRIENDSHIP!
GOOD JOKE! YOU SHOULD BE A COMEDIAN!
LISTEN HERE, DOUBLEDUCK...
... THEN I PROMISE I'LL PERSONALLY DEAL WITH YOU!
THE CONVERSATION ENDS HERE! I'LL BRING THE MACHINE TO THE POLE...
OVER AND OUT!
CLIC
BRINGING THIS THING TO THE POLE... EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
THAT DUCK PLAYED US! WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING A STUPID WHALE FOR THREE THOUSAND MILES!
"BUT SOMEHOW I'LL DO IT!"
RELAX, HE WON'T GET FAR!

THIS IS THE BEST ROUTE TO THE NORTH POLE!
WE JUST HAVE TO GO BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH AND SOONER OR LATER WE'LL INTERCEPT HIM!
ROUTE
NORTH POLE
JAY J TOLD US HE'S AN INEXPERIENCED NAVIGATOR, SO HE'LL FOLLOW THE EASIEST WAY!
THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
MUMBLE...
THIS IS DEFINITELY THE MOST LOGICAL ROUTE TO REACH THE POLE!
NORTH POLE
AND SURELY, THOSE FRIENDLY ORGANIZATION GUYS WILL EXPECT ME TO FOLLOW THE MOST LINEAR PATH! THEREFORE...
... I'LL DO ANYTHING BUT THAT!

I'LL FOLLOW A ZIGZAG ROUTE!
SOMETIMES, THE LESS EASY PATHS ARE THE MOST SAFE!
VRRR
ANY TRACE OF HIM?
NOTHING YET!
I'M SOUNDING HALF THE OCEAN...
HE HASN'T DISAPPEARED...
... HE'S JUST HIDING WELL!
JAY J TOLD US NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE DOUBLEDUCK! HE'S SMARTER THAN HE LOOKS!
THEN WE WAIT FOR HIM TO MAKE A MISTAKE...
"SOONER OR LATER EVERYONE MAKES A MISTAKE!"
VRRR

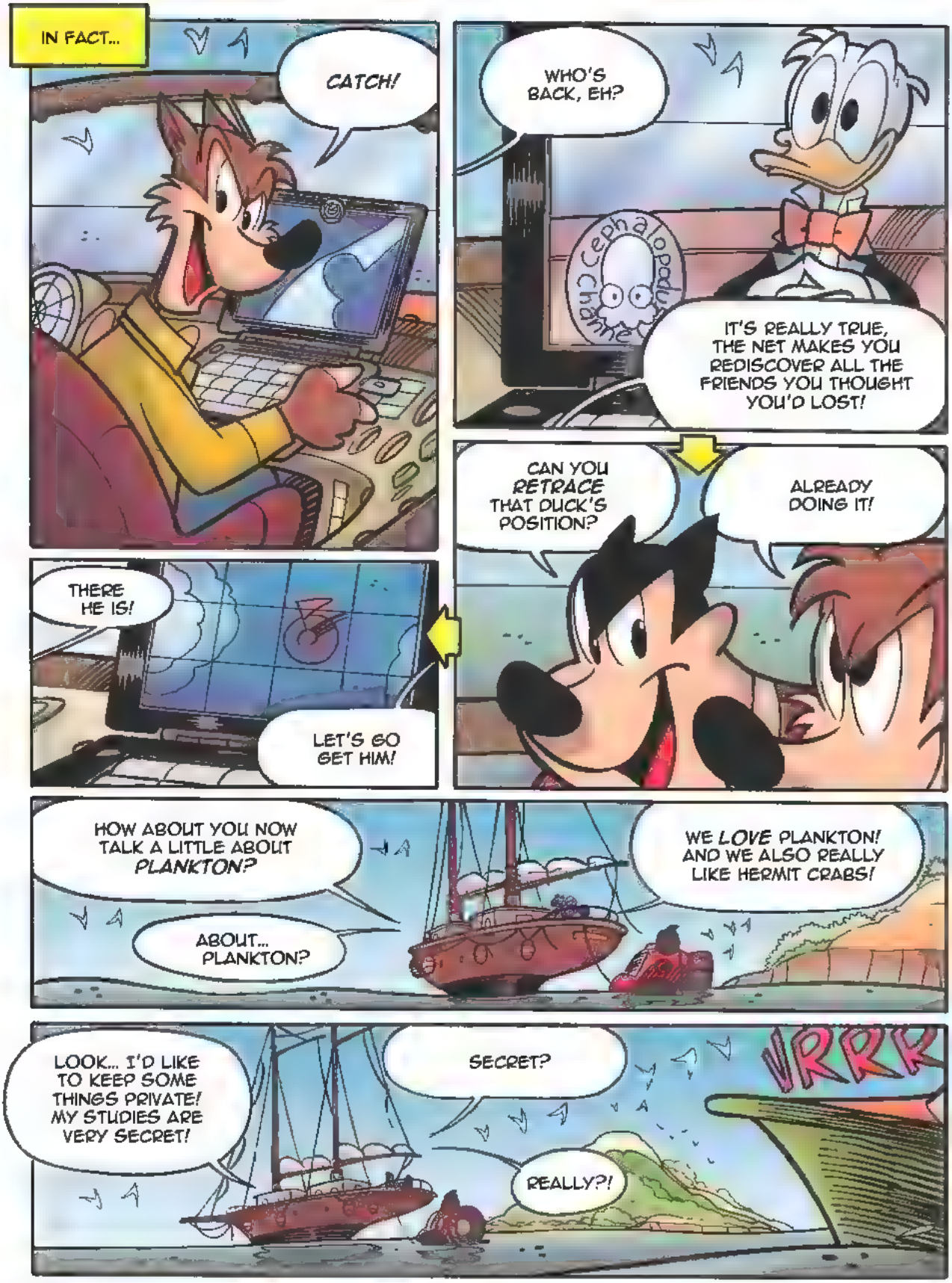

UH OH... SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE PROPELLER!
WARNING...
GULP! IT HAS BLENDED HALF A TON OF ALGAE! I HAVE TO EMERGE AND REMOVE THE MESS!
PHEW... WHAT'S THAT HORRIFIC STENCH?
HEY, YOU THERE! DON'T YOU SMELL THAT FOUL MIASMA?
SGRU-NT!
HEY! STOP IT!
SPLAT SPLAT SPLAT SPLAT SPLAT SPLAT

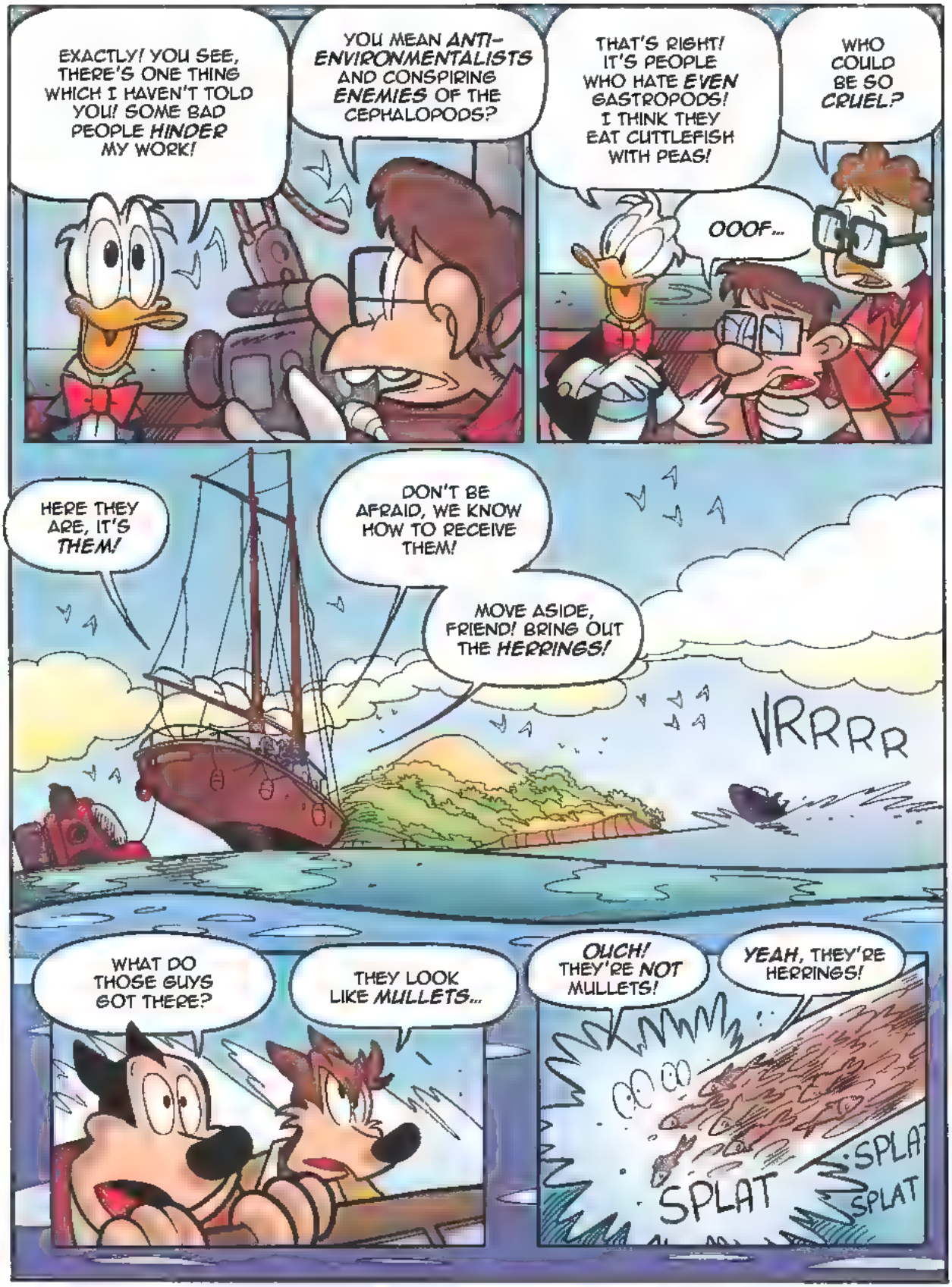

ENOUGH WITH THESE *MULLETS!*
BE QUIET, ENEMY OF THE *CEPHALOPOD!*
AND I'M NO ENEMY OF CEPHALOPODS! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE!
SHUT UP, DON'T *AGGRAVATE* YOUR POSITION!
AND DON'T *DISTURB* THE DEPOSITION!
YOU WANT THE LONG EXPLA-NATION OR THE SHORT ONE?
BESIDES, THEY'RE NOT MULLETS, THEY'RE *HERRINGS!*
*TALK!* WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!
THIS ZONE IS *INTERDICTED* TO NAVIGATION!
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, *INTRUDER!* THERE'S NOTHING STINKY HERE!
WELL, THAT DEPENDS ON POINT OF *VIEW!* RATHER, OF *SMELL...*
I DIDN'T KNOW! IT'S DUE TO THE PROPELLER GETTING STUCK...
YOU CAME HERE TO DISTURB THE DEPOSITION OF EGGS, RIGHT?
*HMPF!* THE EGGS OF WHOM?
... THAT I FOUND MYSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS *STENCH!*

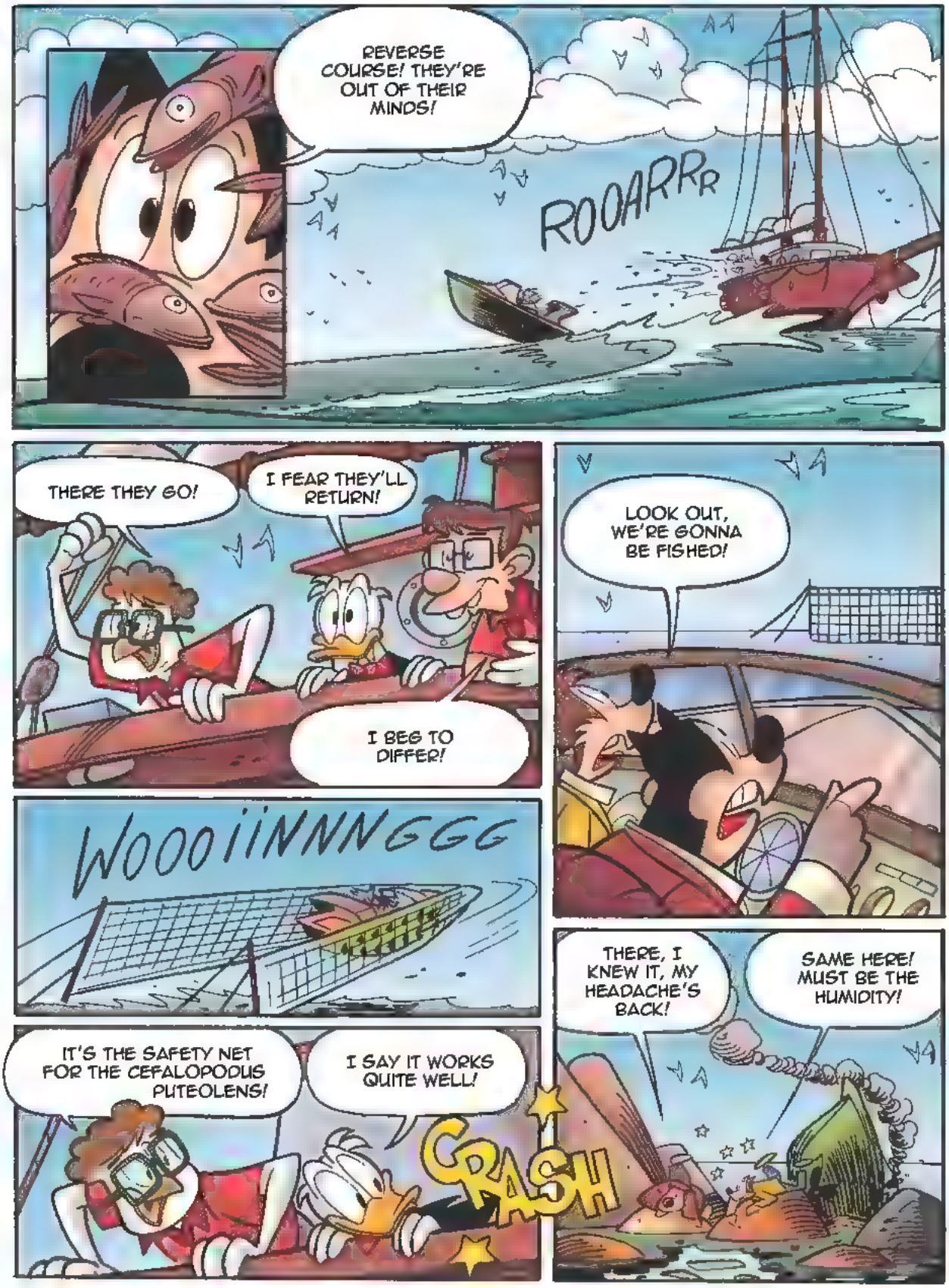
THE EGGS OF CEFALOPODUS PUTEOLENS, THE MOLLUSC OUR ASSOCIATION LOVES, DEFENDS AND PROTECTS!
OUR FRIEND
Save Ceph
IT'S HIM!
SO THIS... THIS AROMA IS PRODUCED BY THIS CELOFAPUZZENS?
THE CEFALOPODUS PUTEOLENS IS ONE OF THE MARVELS OF THE INVERTEBRATE WORLD, UNEDUCATED DUCK!
SEEMS VERY INTERESTING!
THIS STUPENDOUS ANIMAL MOVES WITH A POSTERIOR REACTION SYSTEM!
THAT'S WHAT PRODUCES ITS UNMISTAKABLE SCENT!
YOU SAID IT...
ONCE A YEAR, WE COME HERE...
... TO LAY THE EGGS!
WHICH NOBODY IS TO DISTURB!
ESPECIALLY POLLUTING SUBMARINERS LIKE YOU!
EHEM... YOU'RE MISTAKEN!

MY BATHYSCAPHE DOESN'T POLLUTE! IT HAS A VERY ECOLOGICAL ENGINE!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
NOT EVEN A LITTLE!
ALRIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH!
YOU BETTER!
AND DON'T TRY TO BE CLEVER BECAUSE WE'LL SEE THROUGH IT! WE'RE QUITE ASTUTE, THAT WE ARE!
AFTER THE TRUE STORY...
DAMN! SHOULD HAVE SAID SO RIGHT AWAY AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE BOMBARDED YOU WITH HERRINGS!
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE STORY!
INCREDIBLE... YET CREDIBLE, RIGHT?
AND SO, YOU'RE A SCHOLAR OF ALGAES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTALISTIC USE!
EXACTLY!
AND YOU MANAGED TO DISCOVER THAT FROM ALGAE YOU CAN PRODUCE FUEL!
SURE! ALGA IS THE OIL OF THE FUTURE! WHAT'S MORE, IT DOESN'T POLLUTE!

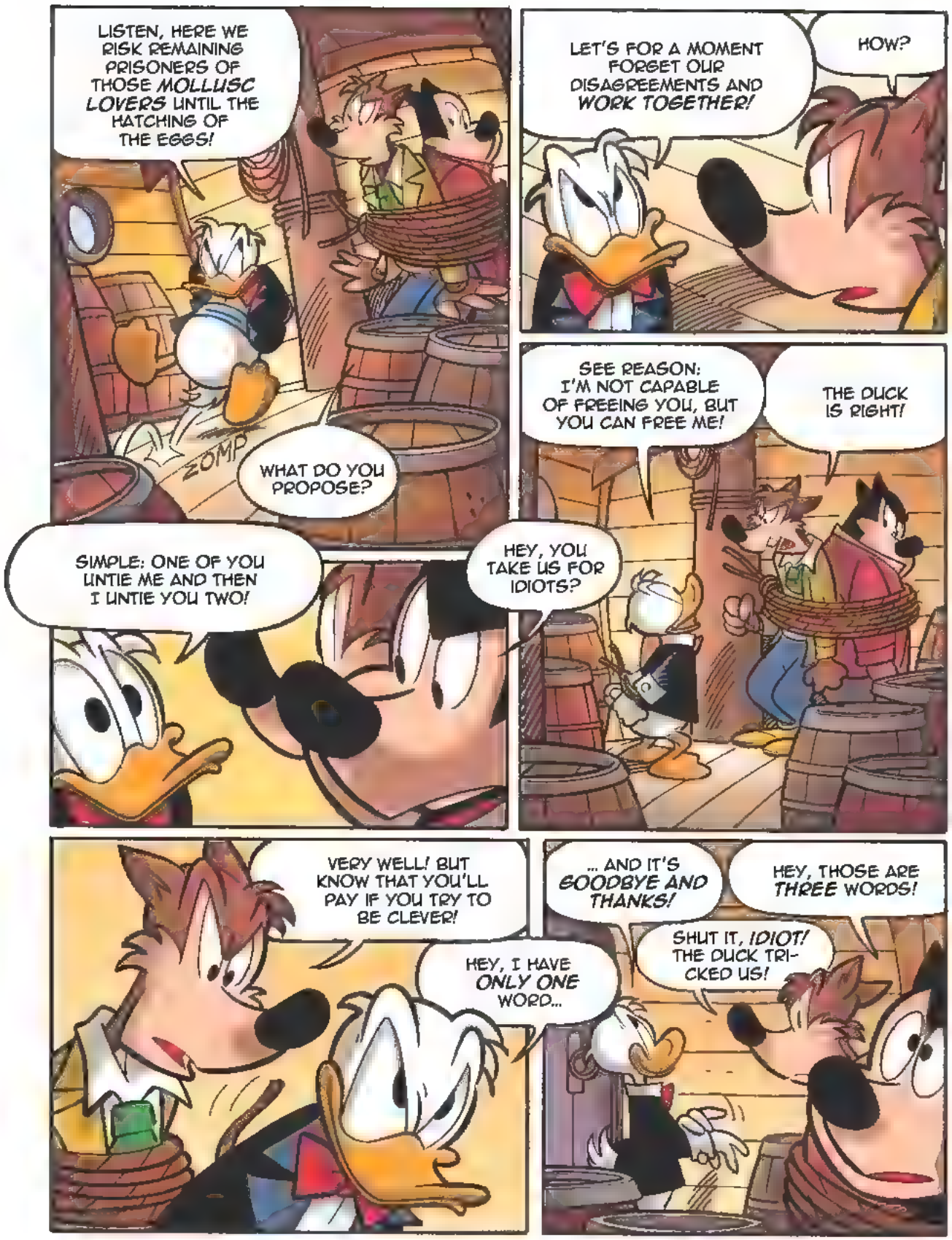
NOT TO MENTION THE OTHER USES I SPOKE OF! FOOD, CLOTHES, PARCHMENT PAPER, SLIMMING CREAMS, SHOE POLISH, PAINT, STUFFING FOR PIPES...
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT!
JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ALGAE!
YOU CAN REALLY ALSO MAKE *TONERS* FOR COPIERS?
THIS *NEWS* SHOULD ABSOLUTELY BE DIVULGED!
W-WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THAT *CAMERA*?
THAT'S RIGHT, GENTLEMEN!
MAKE AN *INTERVIEW* FOR THE CEPHALOPODUS CHANNEL!
WHAT'S THAT? A PROGRAM THAT TALKS ABOUT CALAMARI?
IT'S OUR *TV CHANNEL!* TRANSMITTED VIA INTERNET!
AND WE DON'T DEAL WITH *JUST* CALAMARI!
IT'S ALSO ABOUT *CUTTLEFISH, CLAMS* AND *SQUIDS!*
COME ON, ENVIRON-MENTAL FRIEND, TELL US ABOUT THE ALGAES!
BUT DON'T OVERLOOK THE SEA'S CUCU-MBERS!
I FEEL THAT I'M MAKING A MISTAKE!


IN FACT...
CATCH!
WHO'S BACK, EH?
Cephalopad Channel
IT'S REALLY TRUE, THE NET MAKES YOU REDISCOVER ALL THE FRIENDS YOU THOUGHT YOU'D LOST!
CAN YOU RETRACE THAT DUCK'S POSITION?
ALREADY DOING IT!
THERE HE IS!
LET'S GO GET HIM!
HOW ABOUT YOU NOW TALK A LITTLE ABOUT PLANKTON?
ABOUT... PLANKTON?
WE LOVE PLANKTON! AND WE ALSO REALLY LIKE HERMIT CRABS!
LOOK... I'D LIKE TO KEEP SOME THINGS PRIVATE! MY STUDIES ARE VERY SECRET!
SECRET?
REALLY?!
VRRK

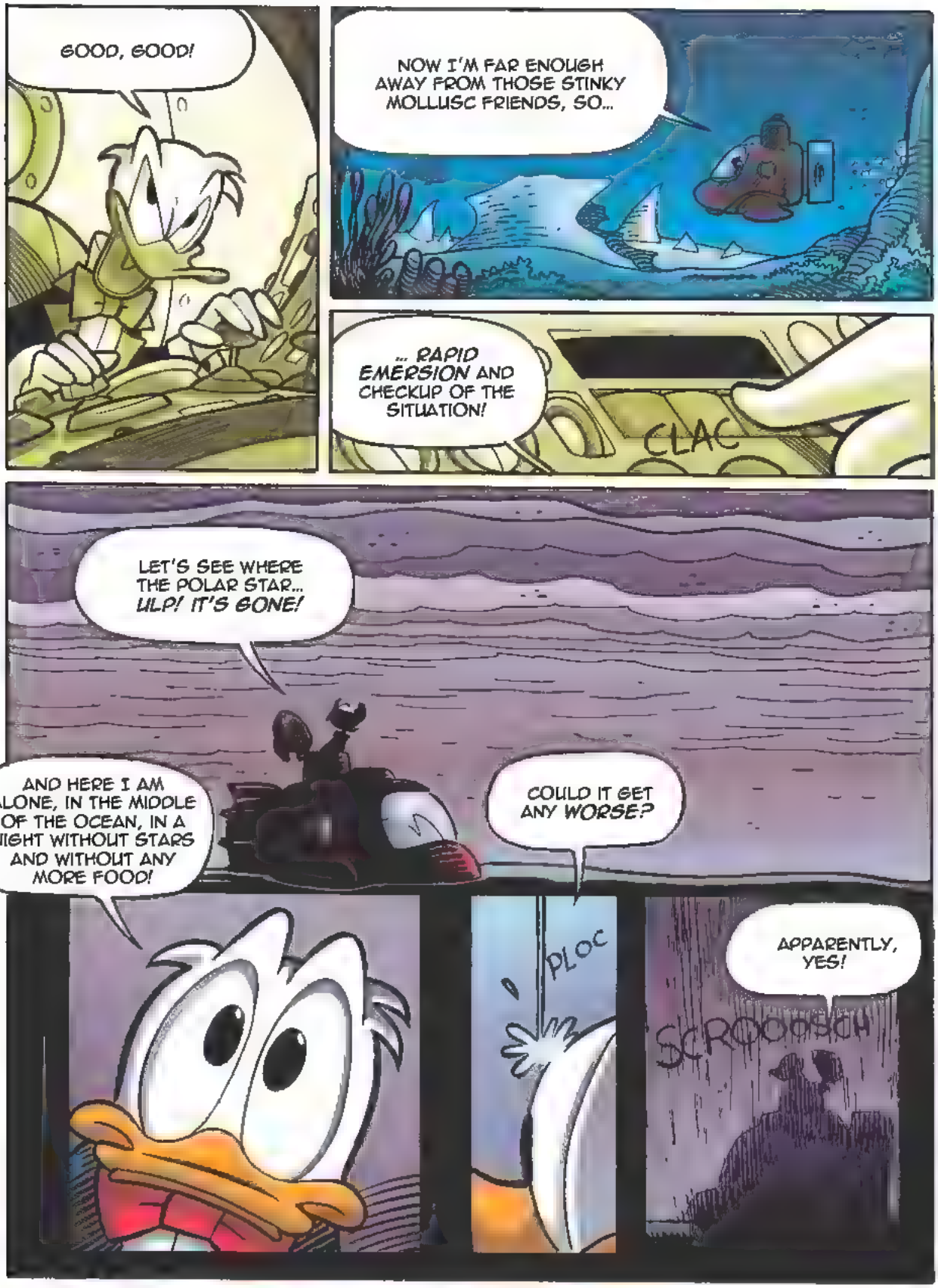

EXACTLY! YOU SEE, THERE'S ONE THING WHICH I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU! SOME BAD PEOPLE *HINDER* MY WORK!
YOU MEAN *ANTI-ENVIRONMENTALISTS* AND CONSPIRING *ENEMIES* OF THE CEPHALOPODS?
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S PEOPLE WHO HATE *EVEN* GASTROPODS! I THINK THEY EAT CUTTLEFISH WITH PEAS!
WHO COULD BE SO *CRUEL?*
OOOF...
HERE THEY ARE, IT'S *THEM!*
DON'T BE AFRAID, WE KNOW HOW TO RECEIVE THEM!
MOVE ASIDE, FRIEND! BRING OUT THE *HERRINGS!*
VRRRR
WHAT DO THOSE GUYS GOT THERE?
THEY LOOK LIKE *MULLETS...*
*OUCH!* THEY'RE *NOT* MULLETS!
*YEAH*, THEY'RE HERRINGS!
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT


REVERSE COURSE! THEY'RE OUT OF THEIR MINDS!
ROOARRR
THERE THEY GO!
I FEAR THEY'LL RETURN!
I BEG TO DIFFER!
LOOK OUT, WE'RE GONNA BE FISHED!
WOOOIINNNGGG
IT'S THE SAFETY NET FOR THE CEFALOPODUS PUTEOLENS!
I SAY IT WORKS QUITE WELL!
CRASH
THERE, I KNEW IT, MY HEADACHE'S BACK!
SAME HERE! MUST BE THE HUMIDITY!

THESE TWO BARN OWLS WILL NO LONGER DISTURB YOUR STUDIES!
BAH!
DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS, DOUBLEDUCK! YOUR SPY CAREER IS OVER!
SPY?! WHAT DOES HE MEAN, "SPY"?
H-HE MEANS ENVIRONMENTAL ALGAE SPY!
YOU DON'T THINK I'VE TOLD YOU LIES, RIGHT?
HERRING STORAGE
FANTASTIC! TRULY FANTASTIC!
TIED UP AND LOCKED INSIDE A STORAGE THAT REEKS OF MULLET!
THEY'RE NOT MULLETS, DUCK! THEY'RE HERRINGS!
WHAT POOR EXPERTISE!


LISTEN, HERE WE RISK REMAINING PRISONERS OF THOSE *MOLLUSC LOVERS* UNTIL THE HATCHING OF THE EGGS!
ZOMP
WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE?
LET'S FOR A MOMENT FORGET OUR DISAGREEMENTS AND *WORK TOGETHER!*
HOW?
SEE REASON: I'M NOT CAPABLE OF FREEING YOU, BUT YOU CAN FREE ME!
THE DUCK IS RIGHT!
SIMPLE: ONE OF YOU UNTIE ME AND THEN I UNTIE YOU TWO!
HEY, YOU TAKE US FOR IDIOTS?
VERY WELL! BUT KNOW THAT YOU'LL PAY IF YOU TRY TO BE CLEVER!
HEY, I HAVE *ONLY ONE* WORD...
... AND IT'S *GOODBYE AND THANKS!*
HEY, THOSE ARE *THREE* WORDS!
SHUT IT, *IDIOT!* THE DUCK TRICKED US!

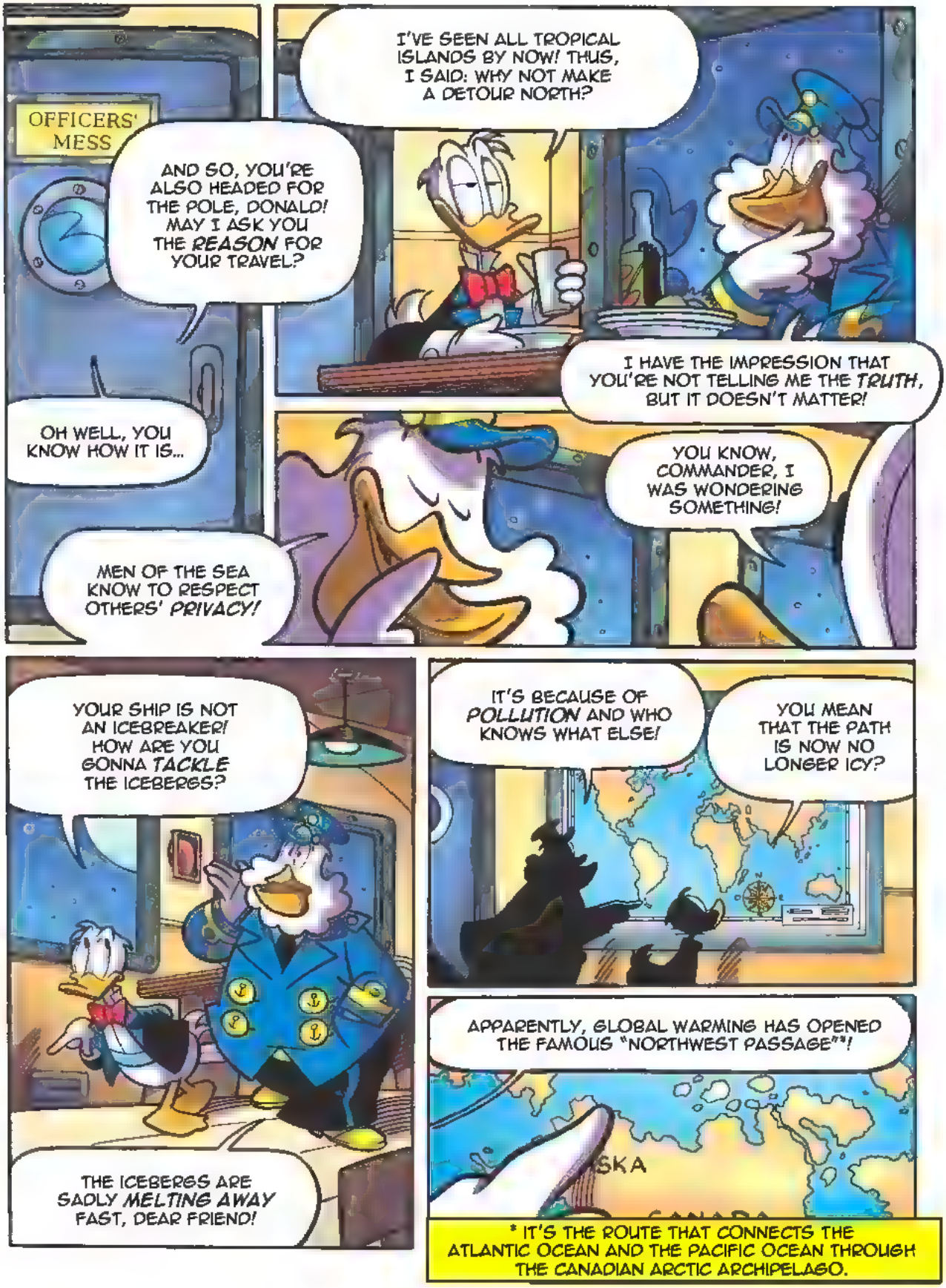
NOW I JUST HAVE TO GET TO THE BATHYSCAPHE AND THAT'S THAT!
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DIDN'T WE TIE YOU UP?
ACTUALLY, I SEEM TO REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
APPARENTLY, YOU NEED A GOOD BEATING!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING? FOR BEING ENVIRONMENTALISTS YOU COME OFF LIKE BULLIES!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! ISN'T THAT A TOTANUS PREZZEMOLATA? I THOUGHT THEY WERE EXTINCT!
A TOTANUS?
WHERE? WHERE?
I MUST HAVE BEEN WRONG!
BONK
IT WAS PROBABLY ONLY AN OPTICAL ILLUSION!
AND NOW, I RESUME THE MARCH TOWARDS THE POLE!


GOOD, GOOD!
NOW I'M FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THOSE STINKY MOLLUSC FRIENDS, SO...
... RAPID EMERSION AND CHECKUP OF THE SITUATION!
CLAC
LET'S SEE WHERE THE POLAR STAR... ULP! IT'S GONE!
AND HERE I AM ALONE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN, IN A NIGHT WITHOUT STARS AND WITHOUT ANY MORE FOOD!
COULD IT GET ANY WORSE?
PLOC
APPARENTLY, YES!
SCROOOSCH

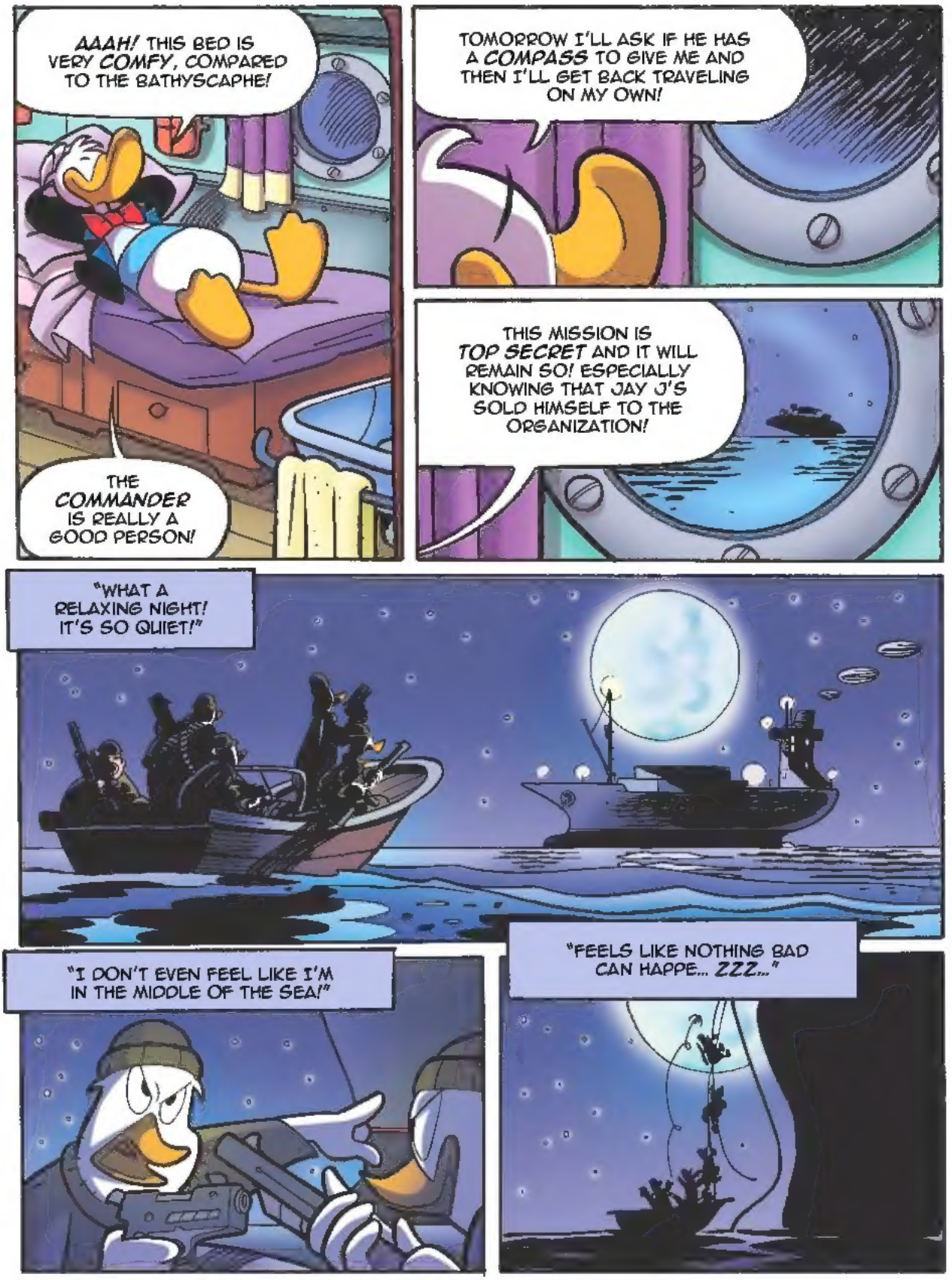
NOTHING TO DO BUT GET AN *UNDERWATER SLEEP!* TOMORROW THE LIGHT OF DAY WILL HELP ME COME UP WITH AN IDEA!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? NEVER SEEN A DUCK INSIDE A SUBMARINE?
*HEY*, WHAT MANNERS!
EVIDENTLY, BETWEEN DUCKS AND MOLLUSCS THERE'S RECIPROCAL *ANTIPATHY!*
NOT HARD TO BELIEVE...
*FRITTO MISTO*, FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE TROUBLE DIGESTING...

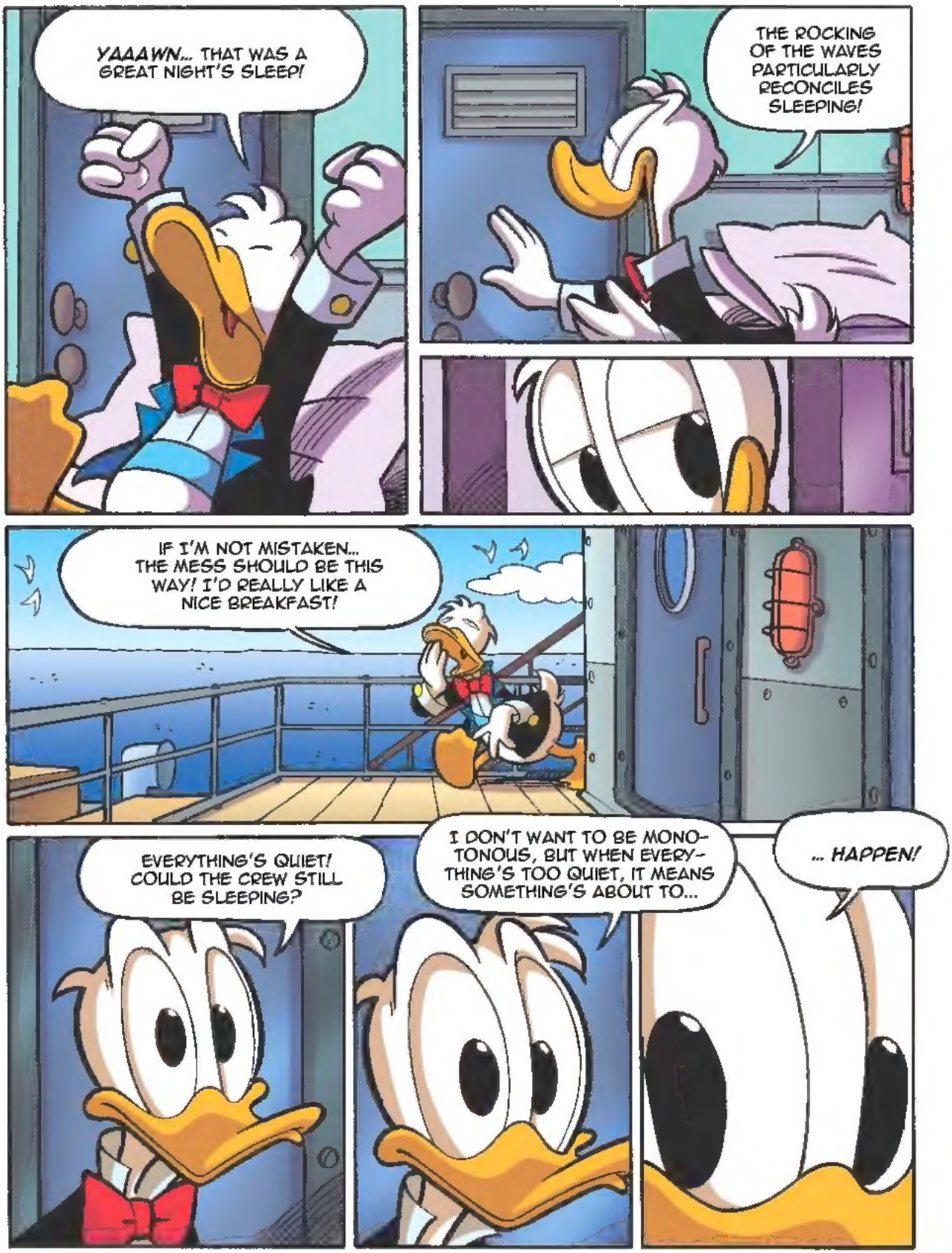
THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
HOW'S THE NAVIGATION PROCEEDING, BOATSWAIN?
PERFECTLY, COMMANDER! THE RAIN HAS STOPPED AND THE SUN IS SHINING!
SEA IS SMOOTH AND WIND IS IN OUR FAVOR! WE'RE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
THIS IS PLEASING!
NOT THAT I'M SURPR... GASP! SOMETHING'S OUT THERE!
NO, IT'S A DUCK IN A SUBMARINE! AND HE'S LOOKING AT US!
TURN TO PORT! MAYBE HE NEEDS RESCUE!
RIGHT!
VRR
A SHOAL OF HERRINGS, SIR? OR PERHAPS MULLETS?

WHAT'S HAPPENING, FRIEND?
HI, COULD YOU GIVE DIRECTIONS ON THE ROAD... OR RATHER, THE SEA?
IN ORDER TO GET TO THE NORTH POLE SHOULD I TAKE THE BELTWAY OR DIRECTLY THE HIGHWAY?
YOU TOO ARE HEADED FOR THOSE PARTS?
YOU OUGHT TO FOLLOW US! WE'RE GONNA GO STRAIGHT TO THE POLE AND THEN PROCEED EAST!
REALLY? FANTASTIC?
HERE'S WHAT YOU DO: COUPLE THE SUBMARINE TO THE SHIP AND JUMP ABOARD! WE'LL HAVE A CHAT ALONG THE WAY!
GLADLY!
HEY, YOU'RE GOOD WITH HAVING SOMETHING TOWED!
WITH ALL THE TIMES 313 HAS BROKEN DOWN...

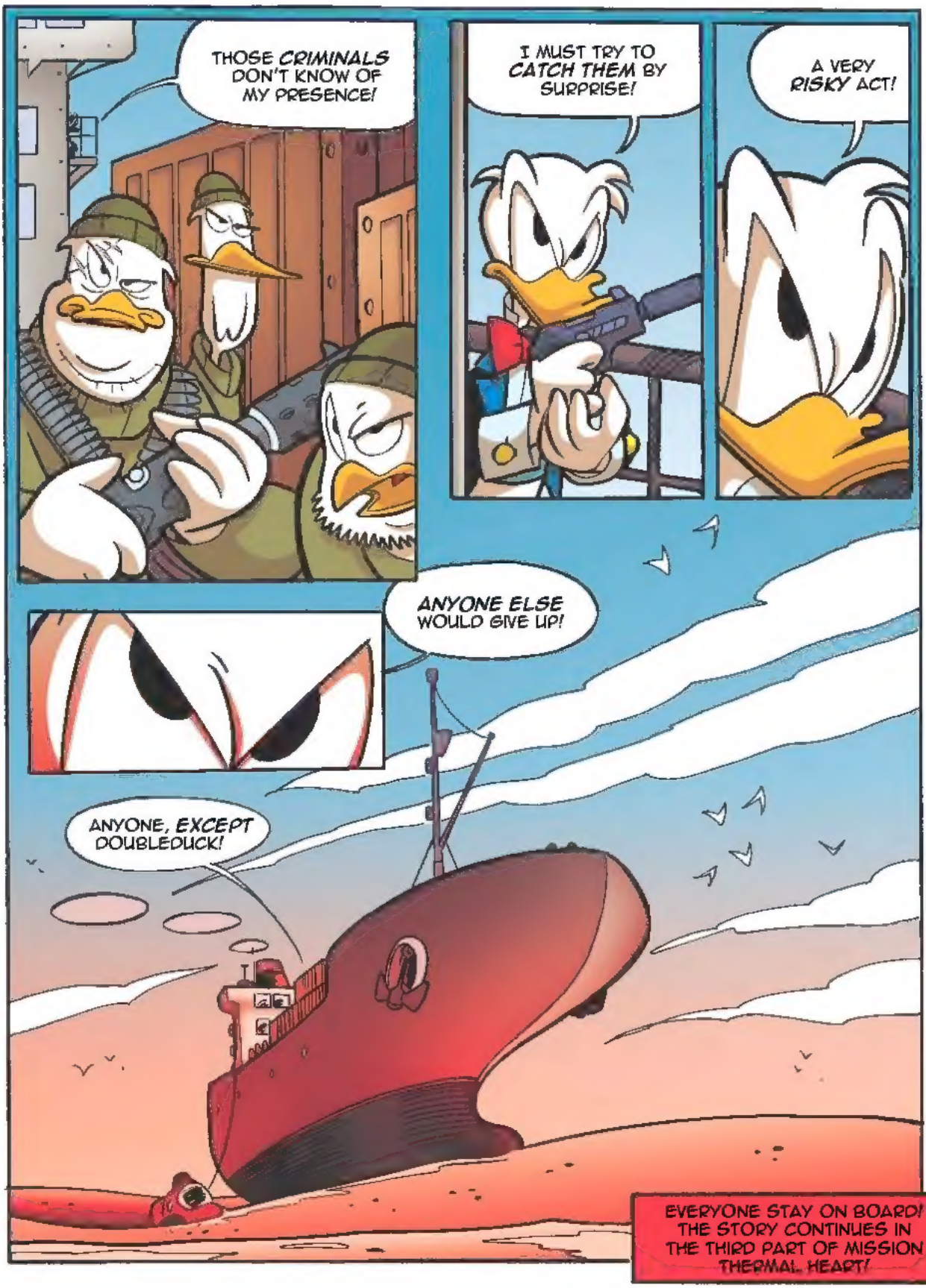

OFFICERS' MESS
AND SO, YOU'RE ALSO HEADED FOR THE POLE, DONALD! MAY I ASK YOU THE *REASON* FOR YOUR TRAVEL?
I'VE SEEN ALL TROPICAL ISLANDS BY NOW! THUS, I SAID: WHY NOT MAKE A DETOUR NORTH?
OH WELL, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS...
I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME THE *TRUTH*, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER!
MEN OF THE SEA KNOW TO RESPECT OTHERS' *PRIVACY!*
YOU KNOW, COMMANDER, I WAS WONDERING SOMETHING!
YOUR SHIP IS NOT AN ICEBREAKER! HOW ARE YOU GONNA *TACKLE* THE ICEBERGS?
THE ICEBERGS ARE SADLY *MELTING AWAY* FAST, DEAR FRIEND!
IT'S BECAUSE OF *POLLUTION* AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE!
YOU MEAN THAT THE PATH IS NOW NO LONGER ICY?
APPARENTLY, GLOBAL WARMING HAS OPENED THE FAMOUS "NORTHWEST PASSAGE"*!
SKA
* IT'S THE ROUTE THAT CONNECTS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE PACIFIC OCEAN THROUGH THE CANADIAN ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO.

IT DOES SAVE SHIPS A LOT OF TIME, BUT I'M NOT SURE IT'S A GOOD THING!
I HAVE THE SAME IMPRESSION!
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE, AND FAST, TO AVOID THAT THE PLANET'S ICE ALL MELTS AWAY!
IT WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE!
YEAH!
I HOPE SOMEONE IS THINKING SERIOUSLY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM!
WELL, SEE... I THINK SOMEONE'S DOING IT!
I'D LIKE TO BE AS OPTIMISTIC AS YOU!
GONNA GO REST, COMMANDER?
YES, COURSE IS SET!
THIS SHIP ALSO HAS AN AUTOMATIC PILOT!
WE'VE ARRANGED FOR YOU A CABIN! I HOPE YOU'LL FIND IT WELL!
GUEST ROOM
I'M SURE IT WILL BE FINE, THANK YOU!


AAAH! THIS BED IS VERY COMFY, COMPARED TO THE BATHYSCAPHE!
THE COMMANDER IS REALLY A GOOD PERSON!
TOMORROW I'LL ASK IF HE HAS A COMPASS TO GIVE ME AND THEN I'LL GET BACK TRAVELING ON MY OWN!
THIS MISSION IS TOP SECRET AND IT WILL REMAIN SO! ESPECIALLY KNOWING THAT JAY J'S SOLD HIMSELF TO THE ORGANIZATION!
"WHAT A RELAXING NIGHT! IT'S SO QUIET!"
"I DON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA!"
"FEELS LIKE NOTHING BAD CAN HAPPE... ZZZ..."


YAAAWN... THAT WAS A GREAT NIGHT'S SLEEP!
THE ROCKING OF THE WAVES PARTICULARLY RECONCILES SLEEPING!
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... THE MESS SHOULD BE THIS WAY! I'D REALLY LIKE A NICE BREAKFAST!
EVERYTHING'S QUIET! COULD THE CREW STILL BE SLEEPING?
I DON'T WANT TO BE MONOTONOUS, BUT WHEN EVERYTHING'S TOO QUIET, IT MEANS SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO...
... HAPPEN!

AND WHO WOULD THAT BE? THE *VICE AUTOMATIC PILOT?*
*GASP!* THE COMMANDER AND THE BOATSWAIN ARE *CAPTURED!*
THE SHIP IS UNDER OUR *CONTROL!*
BRING IT YOU KNOW WHERE! WE'LL BEGIN *EMPTYING IT* TONIGHT!
*PIRATES!*
I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED THE BATHY-SCAPHE!
I HAVE TO *LEAVE*, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
HOLD ON! *I CAN'T* LEAVE THE COMMANDER IN ROUBLE, AFTER HE SAVED MY FEATHERS!


THOSE CRIMINALS DON'T KNOW OF MY PRESENCE!
I MUST TRY TO CATCH THEM BY SURPRISE!
A VERY RISKY ACT!
ANYONE ELSE WOULD GIVE UP!
ANYONE, EXCEPT DOUBLEDUCK!
EVERYONE STAY ON BOARD! THE STORY CONTINUES IN THE THIRD PART OF MISSION THERMAL HEART!